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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/820,208	04/07/2004	Richard Lunak	DB000975-003	7437

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THORP REED & ARMSTRONG, LLP  
ONE OXFORD CENTRE  
301 GRANT STREET, 14TH FLOOR  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219-1425

EXAMINER

CRAWFORD, GENE O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3651

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/820,208

Applicant(s)

LUNAK ET AL.

Examiner

Gene O. Crawford

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9-22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ahlin et al.

The closed loop restocking system and method thereof disclosed by Ahlin et al. includes all the claimed features and in particular includes: **(claim 1)** dispensing hardware 223 located at a decentralized location (column 8, lines 25-44); a carousel 78 (column 17, lines 7-15, figures 14, 15) located at a centralized location responsive to the data (column 8, lines 55-60); a restocking package 31, 32 for carrying items selected from the carousel in response to data, the restocking package carrying indicia (column 12, lines 14-25), transporting the restocking package 31, 32 to the decentralized locations and restocking the dispensing device with the restocking package 31, 32 (column 8, lines 10-25); **(claim 2)** a bar code scanner 38 for scanning bar code indicia 109 for verifying the dispensing hardware 223 is restocked with the items selected from the carousel in the restocking package; **(claim 3)** printer for printing the bar codes in that bar codes can be printed by any computer system including a printer (column 5, lines 45-50); and **(claim 4)** the indicia indicating the dispensing cabinet and location under the control of the dispensing cabinet (column 24, lines 35-43).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 9-22 are allowed.
4. Claims 5-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: a closed loop restocking system and method thereof including the unique features of (i) 'a carousel having first and second tracks and a plurality of bins arranged into rows driven by the tracks and sensors for sensing the position of the rows of bins' in combination with the rest of the claim language is not taught or fairly suggested by the prior art.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: a restocking method including the unique step of 'generating a restocking package by picking at least certain of the items from a carousel in response to the data' in combination with the rest of the claim language is not taught or fairly suggested by the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments filed January 3, 2005 with respect to claims 1-4 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues Ahlin et al. does not disclose a carousel based restocking system and in particular argues the collator assembly 78 is not a carousel as broadly claimed. However, Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth edition, defines carousel as being "a circular conveyor" and "a revolving case used for storage or display." The collator assembly 78 of Ahlin et al. is in fact a circular conveyor that revolves to accept medication from vaults 80 and stores the medication until it is released into a respective patient medication bin (column 17, lines 7-15). Hence, Ahlin et al. does disclose the broad teaching of providing "a carousel located at a centralized location" as broadly claimed. Therefore claims 1-4 stand rejected.

***Conclusion***

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

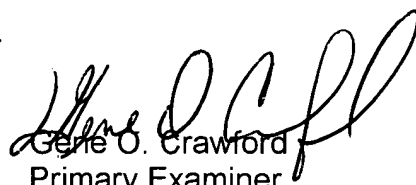
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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gene O. Crawford whose telephone number is 703/305-9733. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Ellis can be reached on 703/308-1113. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Gene O. Crawford  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3651

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